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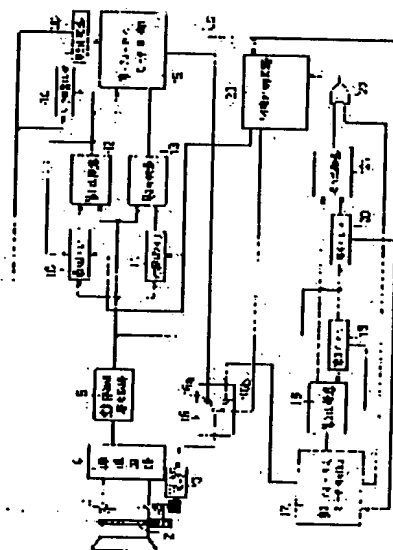
(54) AUTOMATIC FOCUSING CIRCUIT

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To set a large threshold value for the restarting of the rough adjustment of the automatic focusing operation as a result of object variation detection and to minimize unnecessary automatic focusing operation by adjusting the automatic focusing operation roughly and finely independently by two control circuit.

CONSTITUTION: The 1st focus motor control means 15 fixes a lens 1 at the maximum point where a focus evaluated value is maximum and stops a focus motor 3, and the 2nd focus motor control means 17 drives the focus motor 3 again to

displace the lens 1 finely and confirm the gradient of the focus evaluated value intermittently, and adjusts the lens 1 finely so that the focus evaluated value is at the maximum point at all times. Then, the 1st focus motor control means 15 restarts down-hill operation when the correction quantity exceeds a specific value. Consequently, the lens does not vibrate at the time of focusing and never stops in an out-of-focus state. Further, peak confirmation is performed intermittently to eliminate the stopping of the lens in the out-of-focus state even if the



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subject distance varies, the threshold value for subject variation detection is set large, and unnecessary focusing operation is precluded.

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